(c) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Details of coal production in the country during the last three years, State-wise, are as under :

(million tonnes)

State	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Prov.)
Andhra Pradesh	25.65	26.77	28.73
Assam	1.19	0.82	0.75
Bihar	72.41	74.53	77.58
Madhya Pradesh	75.12	79.76	83.28
Maharashtra	21.00	22.82	24.86
Orissa	27.32	32.70	37.37
Uttar Pradesh	13.70	14.80	15.40
West Bengal	17.34	17.93	17.69
Total	253.73	270.13	285.66

(b) The quantity of coal exported by CIL during the last three years, Statewise, is an under:-

(In lakh tonnes)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
West Bengal	0.70	0.76	1.15
Bihar 0.37	0.16	0.14	
Assam	0.05	Nil	Nil

(c) Export to Nepal and Bhutan is made in Indian Rupees and that of Bangladesh it is made in US $. Foreign exchange earned by India, State wise, from export of coal during the last three years is as under :-

(Fig. in US $)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (Prov.)
West Bengal	19.3 Lakh	14.4 Lakh	17.4 Lakh
Bihar	2.1 Lakh	Nil	Nil
Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil

Decline in Sea Borne Foreign Trade

1759. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sea borne foreign trade has declined recently;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) the share of Indian Shipping Corporations in general cargo trade; and

(d) the details of plans for raising the shipping foreign trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The volume of cargo carried by Indian ships has been generally increasing even though it declined during 1994-95. However, the percentage share of Indian lines in the carriage of sea borne cargo has been declining. It has came down from 34.90% in 1992-93 to 27.80% in 1995-96.

(d) The Government is taking various measures from time to time for raising the Indian foreign trade as well as Indian shipping tonnage. Indian shipping companies have been given freedom to trade their vessels as per their commercial judgement in cross trade without any obligation to carry Indian cargo.

Duty Free Import Licences

1760. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the duty free import licences have been issued by the Department of Foreign Trade during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and value of fake licences issued during the above period;

(d) whether CBI has chargesheeted some officers at Panipat; and

(e) if so, the action taken to recover the amount of loss caused to the Government?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Duty Free Import Licences are issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the provisions of the Duty Exemption Scheme as laid down in Chapter VII of the Export and Import Policy and Procedures 1992-97 and 1997-2002. Details of such licences issued during the past 3 years are as under :-

Year	No. of Licences issued
1994-95	45983
1995-96	38400
1996-97	12774
Total	97157

(c) All precautions are taken to ensure that licences are issued only to genuine firms. However when instances

of licences issued to fake firms/forged licences are detected appropriate action is taken under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act 1992 and Customs Act 1962 for cancellation of such licences and initiation of penal proceedings.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The CBI has filed charge sheets in the Court of Special Judge, Delhi against the concerned Government officials. Penal action has been initiated under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act 1992 for imposition of penalty.

Mahila Pradhan Bachat Yojna

1761. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the commission paid to the agents of Mahila Pradhan Bachat Yojna is on monthly or annual basis;

(b) whether there is Inordinate delay in giving the commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any complaints have been received by the Government in this regard during 1994-1995 and 1996; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The MPKBY agents can prefer their claims within four months from the date of the receipt from the investors but not more than one in a calendar month.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, there are no inordinate delays. Sometimes delays in settling. The commission claims to MPKBY agents do occur due to an increasingly large number of receipt of the claims from the agents.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The year-wise break-up of complaints received from the MPKBY agents is as follows :-

Year	No. of Complaints
1994	35
1995	32
1996	101

The specific complaints have been settled the measures taken by the government to minimise the delays in settling the commission claims of the agents include:

(i) Authorising the Regional directors to issue outstation cheques upto Rs. 5000/- to the Agents; instead of the earlier practice of issuing Bank Drafts.

(ii) Issuance of a set of guidelines by the National Savings Commissioner to all the Regional Directors to ensure quick payment within a maximum period of 8 weeks.

(iii) Conducting of Orientation Training Programmes for MPKBY Agents throughout the country to ensure expeditious processing of payment of commission claims.

Performance of Navaratnas

1762. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Power Committee has been constituted to monitor the performance of the nine top Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the autonomy to each such PSU proposed to be extended to some more PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms prescribed for such PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the apex level, a Committee of Secretaries headed by Cabinet Secretary has been set up a forum inter-ministerial discussions and continuous overview of the globalisation effort of the nine public enterprises (Navaratnas). This Committee includes the following:

1. Member-Secretary, Planning Commission.
2. Finance Secretary or Secretary (Expenditure).
3. Secretary of the administrative Ministry and
4. Secretary, Deptt. of Public Enterprises (also the convenor).

(c) and (d) No decision has been taken in this regard.

Plantation Companies

1763. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Regulatory agencies and Finance Ministry are groping in the dark on the issues of regulating the newly set up plantation companies all over the country thriving with mobilisation of funds from small investors on long terms basis and assured high returns;

(b) if so, the names of such plantation companies and funds mobilised by them for plantation during the last three years, State-wise.

(c) the present regulatory mechanism for such companies and the inadequacy of regulations discussed in depth in the light of CRB scam, State-wise; and

(d) the policy action plan finalised to protect the interests of small investors ?